

MARKETS

The Associated Press

Indianapolis grain

Estimated grain prices Wednesday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: cash \$3.92, March \$3.97. Soybeans: cash \$7.16, March \$7.33. Wheat: July \$3.90.

Eastern Cornbelt direct hogs

Eastern Cornbelt Lean Value Direct Hogs report for Wednesday: Trend: Barrows and gilts were 11 cents lower compared with previous day's close.

Base-market carcass basis plant-delivered: 0.9 to 1.1 square inches of back fat, \$57.00-\$69.00; weighted average \$66.64. Net prices, including premiums: 0.9-1.0, \$57.00-\$70.50; 1.0-1.1, \$57.00-\$69.00; 1.1-1.2, \$57.00-\$66.50. Daily movement estimate: 4,279.

Wall Street

NEW YORK — The Dow Jones industrials set new highs Wednesday when stocks extended their gains for a second day after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told a Senate panel the economy should grow modestly this year and that he expects inflation will continue to ease.

The combined gains Tuesday and Wednesday were the Dow's biggest since Aug. 15-16.

Wall Street, which had faced some concern about whether Bernanke might sound a hawkish note on inflation, welcomed his benign remarks. While investors might debate whether the Fed will lower short-term interest rates later this year, Wall Street appeared more confident the central bank was at least likely to leave rates unchanged, as it has in recent meetings.

Investors pleased by a sense that the overall economy is doing well managed to look past a Commerce Department report that retail sales were essentially flat in January amid slumping automobile sales. It was the weakest showing in three months and below what Wall Street had forecast.

News that DaimlerChrysler AG plans to chop 13,000 Chrysler workers under a plan to restore the U.S. operations' profitability by next year pleased investors. But Coca-Cola Co.'s earnings disappointed Wall Street.

"I think what we're having is a victory lap. So far the Fed's forecasts have been almost been spot on," said Drew Matus, senior economist at Lehman Brothers Inc. "So what this tells us is that the Fed is most likely not in any hurry to move rates in either direction."

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 87.01, or 0.69 percent, to 12,741.86. The Dow set an intraday high of 12,759.40, eclipsing a high of 12,700.28 set Feb. 7. The blue chip average also finished at a new high, its 28th record close since the start of October. The previous record, set Feb. 1, was 12,673.68.

Wednesday marked the first time since March 17, 1998, the Dow industrials, transportation and utilities averages have closed at simultaneous highs. Such an alignment has now occurred only 20 times since 1929. The New York Stock Exchange Composite index closed at a record high 9,427.31.

Other stock indicators also climbed Wednesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 11.04, or 0.76 percent, to 1,455.30. The large-cap index is trading at its highest level in more than six years.

The Nasdaq composite index gained 28.50, or 1.16 percent, rising to 2,488.38. Bonds rose sharply following Bernanke's testimony, with the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note falling to 4.74 percent from 4.81 percent late Tuesday.

The dollar was lower versus most major currencies, except the yen. Gold prices rose. Light, sweet crude settled down \$1.06 at \$58 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after weekly domestic inventory data showed stores of distillates such as home heating oil fell by less than analysts had been expecting.

A brush of cold weather across much of the nation had led forecasters to expect a larger decline.

The stock report after the close of markets Wednesday:

Table with columns: Company Name, Price, Change. Includes AES Group, AT&T Corp, Alcoa, Allstate, ArvinMeritor, Best Buy, Boston Scientific, BP Amoco, Comm Health Sys, Cummins, DaimlerChrysler, Diageo, Duff & Phelps, Duke Energy, Exxon Mobil, Fifth Third Bank, First Indiana Bank, General Electric, General Motors, Heartland Bancshrs, IBM, Irwin Bank, KeyCorp, Kimball Int'l CIB, Kroger, Lilly Co., Lincoln Bancorp, MainSource, National City Corp, Navistar, Owens-Illinois, Pepsico, Phelps Dodge, Sara Lee Corp, Schlumberger, Sprint Corp, Third Century Bncp, Vectren, Verizon, Wal-Mart, Walt Disney, WellPoint.

LOTTERY

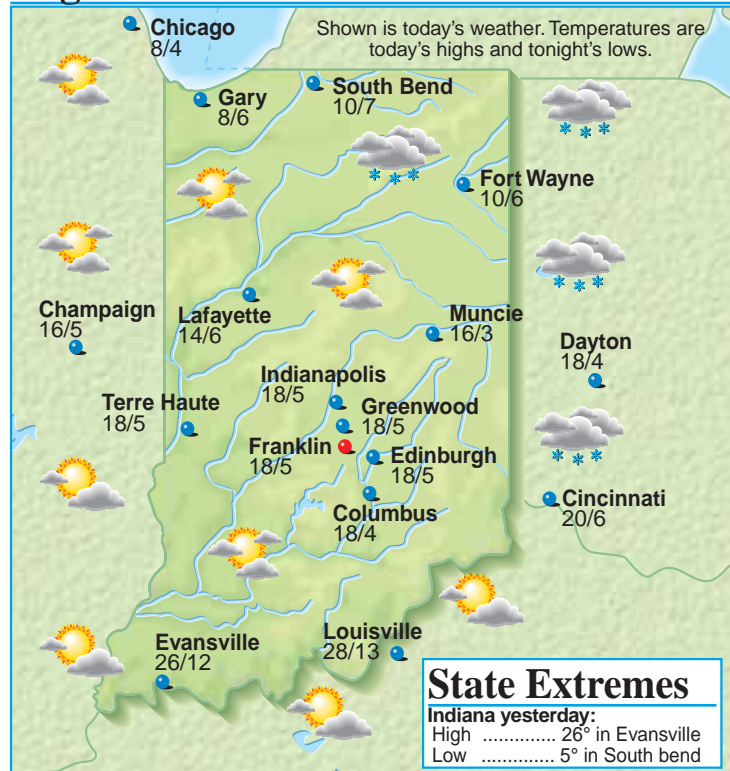
Here are the winning numbers selected Wednesday in the Hoosier Lottery: Daily Three Midday: 5-9-9. Daily Four Midday: 9-3-5-1. Lucky Five Midday: 9-14-23-26-27. Here are winning numbers selected Tuesday in the Hoosier Lottery: Daily Three Evening: 7-7-9. Daily Four Evening: 5-8-1-1. Lucky Five Evening: 12-17-24-25-32. Mix and Match: 13-17-27-38-40. Hoosier Lotto jackpot: \$16.5 million. Powerball jackpot: \$46 million. For Wednesday evening's lottery numbers, see Friday's Daily Journal.

WEATHER

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Johnson County

Five-day forecast grid for Johnson County. Today: Times of sun and clouds, windy and frigid. 16-20, 3-7. Friday: Mostly cloudy and cold. 19-23, 17-21. Saturday: Mostly cloudy, a bit of snow; not as cold. 28-32, 18-22. Sunday: Mostly cloudy and windy with snow flurries. 24-28, 7-11. Monday: Plenty of sunshine. 24-28, 8-12.

Regional weather



Regional summary

Indianapolis/Greenwood: Windy today with clouds and sun. Partly cloudy and frigid tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow. Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a bit of snow. Edinburg/Franklin: Partly sunny, windy and frigid today. Bitterly cold tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow. Saturday: Not as cold with a bit of snow.

Today in weather history™

In 1980, a series of storms brought heavy rain to California, Oregon and Washington in mid-February. Mount Wilson, Calif., had 9.00 inches of rain in two days.

Regional cities

Table with columns: City, Yest. Hi/Lo/W, Fri. Hi/Lo/W. Lists cities like Anderson, Bloomington, Chicago, Cincinnati, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Lafayette, Louisville, Muncie, South Bend, Terre Haute.

Almanac Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007

Almanac statistics for Indianapolis through 5 p.m. yesterday. Temperature: High 19°, Low 9°, Normal high 39°, Normal low 22°, Record high 65° in 1954, Record low -14° in 1905. Wind: Average dir/speed NNW at 13.4 mph, Highest speed 19. Humidity: Yesterday's average 66%, Today's average 69%. Precipitation: 24 hrs. ending 5 p.m. yest. 0.43", Month to date 1.80", Normal month to date 1.12", Year to date 6.21", Normal year to date 3.60". Air quality: Indianapolis Source: IAPC, Yesterday 29, 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-151, Unhealthy (sens. grps.); 151-200, Unhealthy.

Sun and moon

Sunrise today 7:37 a.m., Sunset tonight 6:20 p.m., Moonrise today 6:34 a.m., Moonset today 4:03 p.m. Includes moon phase icons for Feb 17, Feb 24, Mar 3, Mar 11.

AccuWeather UV Index™

Highest Today in Johnson County: 2. Values indicate the exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays. Scale from 0 to 11+.

Weather Trivia™

What is a brown blizzard? The combination of drifting dust and blowing snow.

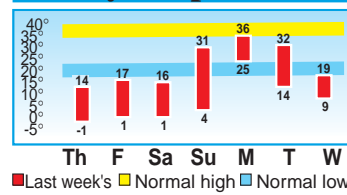
Wind Chill Today

How cold it feels based on temperature and wind speed. 8 a.m. -2°, Noon -1°, 4 p.m. -1°.

Heating Degree Days

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day with negative values counting as zero. Yesterday 51, Month to date 721, Normal month to date 508.

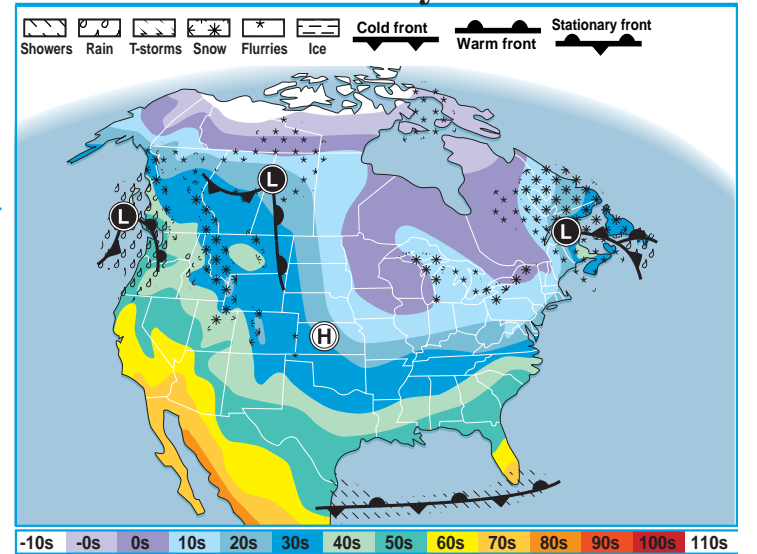
Weekly temperatures



River stages

Table with columns: Station, Fld, Stage, Chg. Lists White River, White River (East Fork) with stages and changes.

National weather today



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National cities

Table with columns: City, Yest. Hi/Lo/W, Fri. Hi/Lo/W. Lists cities like Albany, NY, Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Burlington, VT, Champaign, Charleston, SC, Cheyenne, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbia, SC, Columbus, GA, Dallas, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, El Paso, Fairbanks, Honolulu, Philadelphia, Phoenix, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa, Washington, DC.

Home

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

to drop off their things and headed to the 38th Infantry Division Armory in Indianapolis, where they prepared to meet Jeff.

Daughter Andrea, 14, stayed up all night. Sammy, 5, also was too excited to go to bed, Soni said.

The youngest, Alayna, 3, was the only one who got any sleep, she said.

By noon, Alayna was the only one of the children who was able to keep her eyes open.

The family decided to stay at the hotel Wednesday night and keep off the icy roads.

Some families had worried the bad weather would prevent the soldiers from arriving on schedule, Soni Jackson said.

"But I swear we would have all been out there shoveling off that runway if it would have meant getting them home on time," she said.

Since her husband has been away, she has developed a new appreciation for single parents, Soni Jackson said.

"The kids adjusted better than I thought. I learned how to take the vacuum sweeper apart and put it back together," she said.

Friends and family also helped her, she said.

Recently, water pipes burst at the family's home, and Soni Jackson's father came from Indianapolis to help her replace them, she said.

"The moms and dads who stay behind and take care of the kids on their own are the real heroes," Jeff Jackson said.

Also staying in the room with the couple was one of Jackson's comrades, Joseph Pence, who lives in Ohio.

The group watched movies, played video games and swam in the hotel pool while Soni Jackson

got some of the soldiers' laundry done.

"The scented candles are because of them. They smell too much like men," Soni Jackson said laughing.

Dust from the Afghanistan mountains still clung to the boxes, duffle bags and even computers Jeff and his friend brought back.

The soldiers were responsible for daily operations at the base. Tasks included coordinating convoys with the civilian contractors, writing briefings on base activities for the chief of staff and going on missions to purchase weapons caches, which were destroyed.

One of his biggest achievements was leading a group to set up a smaller base 20 miles east of where he was stationed at Bagram, he said. Bagram is about 27 miles north of the capital, Kabul.

"That was nothing when we started it. We had to build it from scratch," he said.

The Jacksons communicated every day through e-mail.

Sometimes they simply shared a small joke. Other times, Jeff Jackson sent video clips of what his troops were doing.

Now, a year later, the soldiers said their time seems like a blur.

The e-mails and videos will be their reminders of what happened, Jeff Jackson said.

The unit was deployed from Camp Atterbury and arrived in Afghanistan on Valentine's Day, Soni Jackson remembered.

"That was American time. It was actually the 15th in Afghanistan," Jeff Jackson pointed out.

"Well, it was Valentine's Day here," she said.

Today, her husband goes back to Atterbury for four days of demobilization, in part to make sure he and the other soldiers did not bring back any diseases.

"The real celebrating will have to wait," he said.

Snow

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

in such cold weather, Vandegriff said.

Motorists should remain cautious because wind can drastically change road conditions in less than an hour, he said.

The snow slowed early-morning traffic, but it couldn't stall Valentine's Day. Florists reported making their scheduled deliveries as sun, salt and snowplows cleared most major roads by midday.

JP Flower Co. in Franklin made 40 deliveries. The florist pushed about 30 deliveries ahead to Monday in anticipation of the storm. Many customers were glad to receive bouquets earlier rather than risk not receiving them at all, employee Lisa Shipe said.

The florist delivered orders as far north as Indianapolis on

Wednesday with no difficulties.

Florists report strong business despite the weather. But the barbershop quartet saw appointments drop off a little this year, said Greenwood singer Richard Wood.

Wood ran through more than 30 performances, each consisting of three songs, on Valentine's Day last year. This year was a little easier on his voice, with a dozen fewer stops.

"The roads have been a little tough, but we're moving right along," he said.

Seven Johnson County REMC customers suffered power outages overnight.

A car struck a pole, affecting three households. The cold blew four fuses, which the company fixed within an hour, REMC Chief Executive Officer Chet Aubin said.

Many drivers stayed off the roads, which meant fewer accidents, police said. Throughout the county, police recorded only four accidents and nine slide-offs

as of late Wednesday afternoon.

The county disbanded its emergency operations center after more than 30 hours at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

The Bargersville Post Office managed to make most of its deliveries despite drifts that buried many mailboxes, postmaster Debbie Meyer said. Postal employees spent several additional hours working through their routes Tuesday and Wednesday, she said.

"We're dedicated," Meyer said. "We're of the mind-set that we'll keep going until we get the job done."

Franklin made do with only four trucks Wednesday, with three needing repairs.

Street department director Robert Hughes sneaked in an hour of sleep Tuesday night. After the roads have been cleared, his department will turn its focus to truck maintenance.

"There's really no break," he said. "We'll just have to get ready for Friday."

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